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WISSENSCHAFTLICHE KURZMITTEILUNG

A Leopard-skin and -skull (*Panthera pardus* L.) from Kangean Island, Indonesia

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The distribution of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus* L.) includes, in the Malaysian Subregion, peninsular Malaya and Java (MEDWAY 1978). HARTERT (1902) reports that "spotted tigers" are not rare on Kangean Island, situated about 150 km east of Madura. POCKOCK (1930) mentions the Leopard as occurring on Kangean; this is probably based on a part of a tail secured by G. C. SHORTRIDGE in 1908. Several other authors list the Leopard amongst the mammals of Kangean (CHASEN 1940; CARTER et al. 1946; DELSMAN 1951), probably all referring to POCKOCK's record. Despite later expeditions to collect harder evidence (WEST et al. 1980; BEUDELS et al. 1981; IONGH et al. 1982) only in January 1984 a skin and a (heavily damaged) skull were secured from Kangean (HELVOORT 1984).

The specimen was originally reported by a local village head to have a fresh length of



Provisionally stuffed skin of the "Kangean-panther" (*Panthera pardus* L.) from Kangean Island, Indonesia

185 cm. However, the provisionally stuffed skin we found upon arrival, measured 177 cm over the curves (including the tail of 69 cm). This is definitely smaller compared to the measurements given by MEDWAY (1978): 215 cm for the male and 185 cm for the female. The colour pattern seems to fall within the range of variation of the Javanese Leopard (*Panthera pardus melas*). The skin and skull are in the collection of the Zoological Museum of Bogor. Both this Museum and the Van Tienhoven Foundation for International Nature Protection, Amsterdam, have an extensive set of colour slides and prints. Further study of this skin and skull is needed for final identification of its subspecific status.

The skull was damaged in the killing and mounting-process, and measurements could not (yet) be taken. The skin is complete and in a good condition.

Mainly based on pugmarks and a single tibia, LONGH et al. (1982) concluded that the "Kangean-panther" may be somewhat smaller as its mainland counterpart. DELSMAN (1951) also states this feature explicitly, but does not mention his evidence. The above reported dimensions of the present specimen seem to fully confirm these remarks.

There are indications that a viable population survives on Kangean. Conditions are not unfavourable: prey is abundant (Macques, Deer), as is shelter (forest, caves). Still, extra protection and attention is needed. The authors received unconfirmed reports that 2 pups were captured and died in July and September 1984. Moreover, still little is known about the "Kangean-panther".

The origin of the Leopard on Kangean is unknown. Although Kangean is part of the Sunda-shelf, introduction as hunting prey seems the most plausible explanation at the moment.

The Leopard is recorded as "vulnerable" in the IUCN Red Data Book, and is fully protected under the present Indonesian Laws.

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BEKANNTMACHUNG

Die Internationale Kommission für Zoologische Nomenklatur teilt mit:

The following Opinions have been published by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature, vol. 42, part 1, on 2 April 1985:

Opinion No.

1289 (p. 19) *Mesoplodon* Gervais, 1850 (Mammalia, Cetacea): conserved.

1291 (p. 24) *Antilope zebra* Gray, 1838 (Mammalia): conserved.